

How to Prevent Poisonings in Your Home

09/12/16

Bathroom

- ✗ Have a "child-proof" cabinet that locks.
- ✗ Use child-resistant caps and keep medication lids tightly closed.
- ✗ Never take medication in front of a child, or refer to pills as candy.
- ✗ Always follow the recommended dosage set forth by your doctor for all medications.
- ✗ Some mouthwashes contain enough alcohol to poison small children.
- ✗ Some toilet bowl cleansers are dangerously caustic and capable of burning tissue if ingested.

Bedroom

- ✂ Mothballs and crystals should be hung in containers.
- ✂ Keep personal care items are such as hair spray, cologne, perfumes, nail polish remover, glue remover, and astringents where children can't get into them.

Living Room

- ✂ Hang garments and store purses where children are not likely to get at them.
- ✂ Children may be exposed to different lead sources in your home. Small children may chew on window sills, eat paint chips, or suck on their hands or toys, exposing themselves to lead dust. Lead poisoning can cause serious medical problems, especially in young children. Be sure your home is lead safe.

Kitchen

- ✂ Check under the sink and in cabinets. Look for stored products that could be hazardous when accessible to young children. Cleaning compounds and foods should never be stored together.
- ✂ Keep all substances in their original containers.
- ✂ Keep potentially hazardous cleaning compounds capped. Do not leave an uncapped container unattended even "just a minute" if toddlers are present.

Additional Precautions

- ✂ Keep the numbers of your local poison control center. Have the original container and its label when you call.
- ✂ Use safety latches or combination locks to prevent curious children from getting into cabinets and drawers.
- ✂ Many poisonings of youngsters happen when the household routine has been interrupted.
- ✂ Throw out unneeded or expired medicines (OTC and prescriptions).

Pets are Susceptible, Too!

- ✂ Poisonous anti-freeze tastes sweet to dogs and cats - clean up spills and leaks immediately and store carefully.
- ✂ Avoid feeding pets human food - chocolate can poison and kill a dog.
- ✂ Don't spray or store cleaning or pesticide products near pet food or water dishes.
- ✂ In the event of a spill, be sure to keep animals out of the area until it is cleaned.
- ✂ Don't forget about wildlife.

First Aid for Poisoning

- **Swallowed poison**

Induce vomiting **ONLY** if emergency personnel on the phone tell you to do so. It will depend on what the child has swallowed; some petroleum products or caustic poisons will cause more damage if the child is made to vomit. Always keep Syrup of Ipecac on hand (1 ounce for each child in the household) to use to induce vomiting if recommended by emergency personnel. Be sure the date is current.

First Aid for Poisoning

- **Poison on skin**

If pesticide splashes on the skin, drench area with water and remove contaminated clothing. Wash skin and hair thoroughly with soap and water. Later, discard contaminated clothing or thoroughly wash it separately from other laundry.

First Aid for Poisoning

- **Inhaled poison**

Carry or drag victim to fresh air immediately. If you think you need protection such as a respirator and one is not available to you, call the Fire Department and wait for emergency equipment before entering the area. Loosen victim's tight clothing. If the victim's skin is blue or the victim has stopped breathing, give artificial respiration (if you know how) and call rescue service for help. Open doors and windows so no one else will be poisoned by fumes.

POISON CONTROL

1-800-222-1222

- **FWA GARRISON SAFETY**
 - **353-7078**

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